



Kate Ripley and Lael Oldmixon draw for a scholarship winner from names collected during the Tanana Valley State Fair. Fifteen month old Espen Parrett of Fairbanks won the \$1,500 scholarship account. Congratulations Espen!

Stay on TRACK Launches a Third Year

Students at new student orientations around the state are learning what it takes to Stay on TRACK in college.

Campuses are sharing a [video](#) with students and parents outlining the value and importance of completing their degree on time. The focus on freshmen was born partially from UA junior and senior students that said, "I wish I would have known this as a freshman" about the additional time and cost incurred by taking less than 30 credits a year.

The Stay on TRACK program promotes taking 30 credits a year, working with an academic advisor, choosing a major carefully, and using Degree Works, a software program available to all enrolled students that helps track degree completion.

Students in residence halls this fall will be sporting laundry bags stating "I'm taking a full load," and a Facebook photo contest promotion launching in October will help increase student awareness of Stay on TRACK.

The Stay on TRACK outreach seems to be working. Fall 2012 showed an overall 9.84 percent spike in students at the university enrolling in 15 or more credits compared to the prior year.

The success has garnered media coverage, including this article in the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#).

Opinion pieces on the subject from Pat Jacobson, Corrine Soltis and Shauna Thorton are reprinted in [UA Perspectives](#) in this issue of the Statewide Voice.

For more information, contact Mary Gower, 907.450.8145 or msgower@alaska.edu.



Samantha Stanbrough shows off the Stay on TRACK laundry bags distributed to new students at orientations around the state. Photo by Monique Musick